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ABSTRACT

Project AFFIRM (African-American First Investment Return Module) was established at Evergreen Valley College in fall 1989 as a comprehensive academic and support program to help African-American students achieve their college transfer or associate degree goals. AFFIRM courses have the same content as traditional courses, but utilize non-traditional delivery and intervention strategies and are taught by culture-specific role model teachers. Supportive services include academic and personal counseling, tutoring, mentoring, economic literacy and self-esteem workshops, scholarships, and book and personal emergency loans. In spring 1994, 174 students were enrolled in 8 classes offered through the project: English Composition (English 1A); Fundamentals of Composition (English 104); Improvement of Writing (English 330); Introduction to Chemistry (Chemistry 30A); College Study Techniques (Guidance 95); Small Group Communication (Communication Studies 45); Special Topics (Guidance 137); and Algebra I (Mathematics 12). Compared to other African-American students taking the same courses, AFFIRM students had a lower success rate (40% versus 44%). AFFIRM students had a noticeably lower success rate than non-AFFIRM African-American students in Chemistry 30 (35% versus 100%), and a lower success rate in Communication Studies (36% versus 64%), Mathematics 12 (33% versus 46%), and English 330 (25% versus 41%). AFFIRM students did outperform non-Affirm students in English 1A (43% versus 33%) and Guidance 137 (63% versus 56%). In addition, over 8 semesters the total success rate for AFFIRM students in English 330 was 59%, compared to 52% for other English 330 African-American students. (MAB)

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ED 382 284

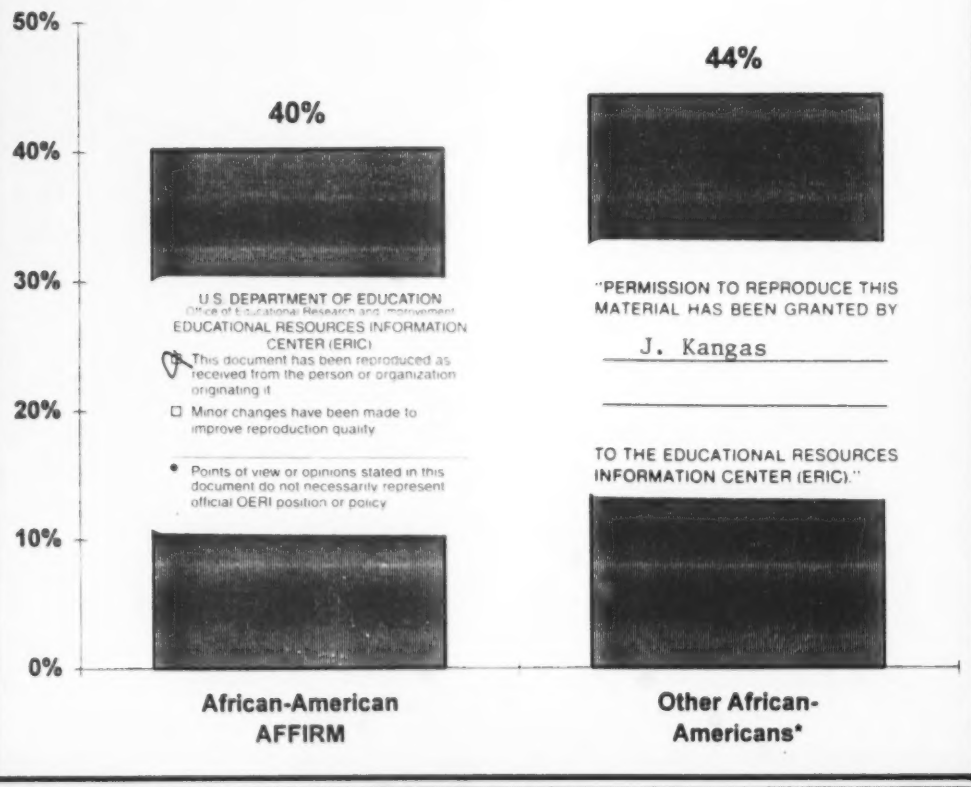
SAN JOSE/EVERGREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE

AFFIRM SUCCESS RATES

Compared to Success Rates of Other African-American Students in the Same Courses Spring 1994

Overall Success Rate Spring 1994



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*African-American Students in non-AFFIRM sections of the same courses

JC 950 270

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BACKGROUND
&
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Definitions

Success (Suc) = A + B + C + CR grades

Source Document

SJ/ECCD Ethnic Grade Distribution Report (#5L2001 Spring 1994)

Project Author

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Mission, History and Program Narrative

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Data Collection and Document Preparation

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Evergreen Valley College
AFFIRM Success Story--Spring 1994

by Jon Kangas
July 1994

Mission

The mission of the Project AFFIRM Program is to address the educational crisis by providing academic and personal support that will significantly increase graduation and transfer rates of African-American students.

History

Project AFFIRM *(African-American First Investment Return Module)* was established in Fall of 1989 in an attempt to address the widespread educational crisis specifically pertaining to African-American students. It is a comprehensive academic and support program designed to assist African-American students in building their self-esteem and in preparing these students for college transfer and/or for graduating with an AA/AS degree. The program's philosophy is that the classroom experience is less rewarding to these students if they are not exposed to and/or involved in a variety of specialized learning strategies and supportive learning environments. It is also evident that all students, and particularly students who are academically underprepared, learn best in a supportive community. Therefore, integration and participation in supportive learning environments are pertinent to the learning and retention of all students, especially the underprepared.

The Program

Courses in the program combine career and economic prosperity components into a successful life survival plan of action and towards higher educational goals. Career and financial management training are combined with general education courses to enhance the students' knowledge of what is expected in the real world.

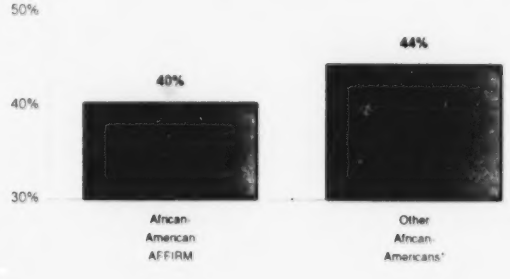
The program has served approximately 400 African-American students. With an increasing number of students participating in the project, it has grown into a comprehensive program.

Students enrolled in the program have culture-specific role model teachers for instruction. Courses have the same content as other campus courses taught in a traditional mode, but the AFFIRM courses utilize non-traditional delivery and intervention strategies. Program aides are in the classroom to provide extra assistance to the students.

In Spring 1994, Project AFFIRM offered eight classes:

Chemistry 30A - Introduction to Chemistry
Communication Studies 45 - Small Group Communication
English 1A - English Composition
English 104 - Fundamentals of Composition
English 330 - Improvement of Writing
Guidance 95 - College Study Techniques
Guidance 137 - Special Topics
Mathematics 12 - Algebra I

Overall Success Rates
Spring 1994



Supportive Services Provided by the Project AFFIRM Program:

- academic and personal counseling
- tutoring
- mentoring
- economic literacy and self-esteem workshops
- scholarships, book and personal emergency loans

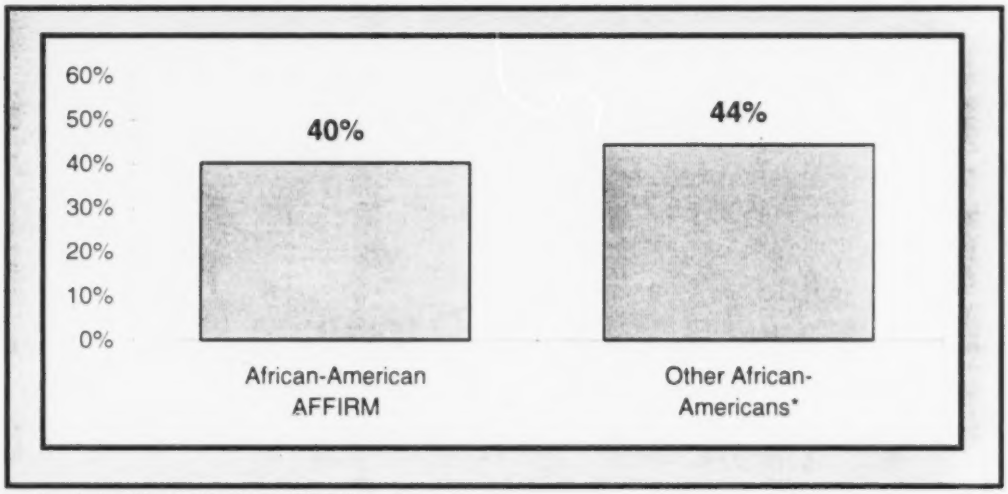
Evergreen Valley College

Overall Success Rates for African-American AFFIRM Students Compared to Other African-Americans in the Same Courses

Spring 1994

	African-American AFFIRM			Other African-Americans*		
Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
Chem 30	17	6	35%	2	2	100%
Com S 45	36	13	36%	11	7	64%
English 1A	30	13	43%	36	12	33%
English 104	22	10	45%	23	11	48%
English 330	16	4	25%	17	7	41%
Guide 95	10	4	40%	2	0	0%
Guide 137	19	12	63%	9	5	56%
Math 12	24	8	33%	24	11	46%
Total	174	70	**40%**	124	55	**44%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment:

The overall success rate of African-American AFFIRM students in eight AFFIRM sections was 40% compared to 44% for African-Americans in non-AFFIRM comparison sections. The only three courses in which African-American AFFIRM students did better than the non-AFFIRM African-Americans were English 1A (43% compared to 33%), Guidance 95 (40% compared to 0%), and Guidance 137 (63% compared to 56%).

NOTE: AFFIRM records of student ethnicity differ somewhat from the official District Ethnic Grade Distribution Report from which data for this research report was taken. Students indicate their ethnic background on a scanner filled out as part of the admission and registration process, and this information goes into the Grade Distribution Report. African-American students who marked "Decline to State," "Unknown," or any designation other than "Black" on the scanner, were not included as "African-American" in this AFFIRM report.

Evergreen Valley College

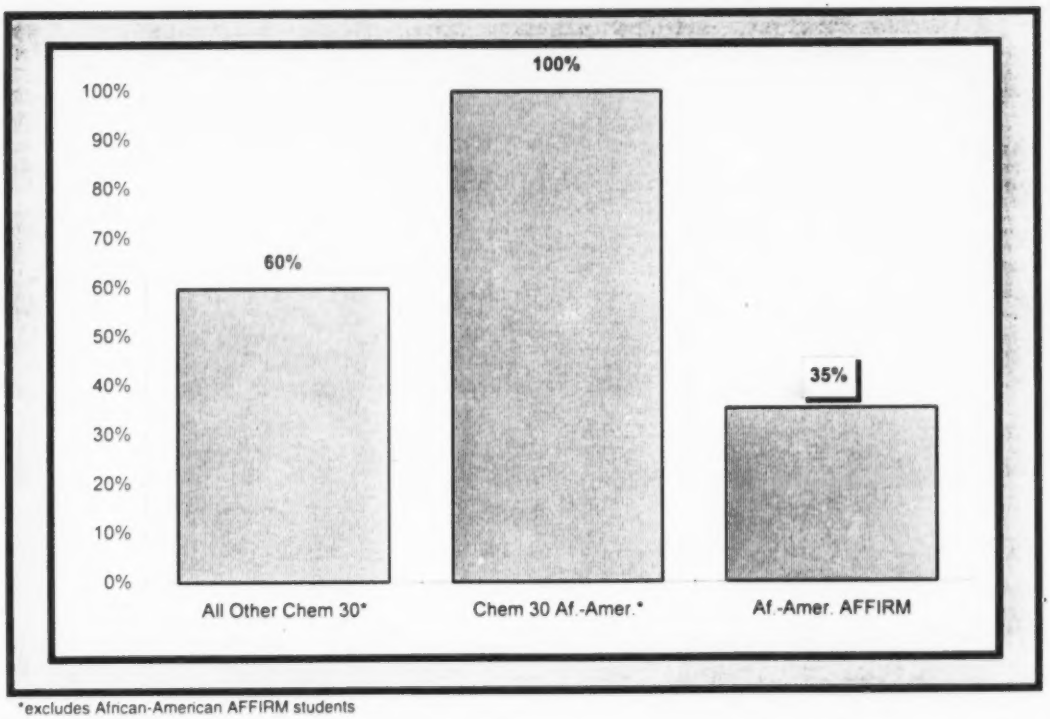
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in Chem 30

Compared to All Chem 30 African-Americans and All Other Chem 30 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Chem 30*	157	94	60%
Chem 30 Af.-Amer.*	2	2	100%
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	17	6	35%

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: Of the 19 African-American students in Chemistry 30, 17 were AFFIRM students. These 17 students had a success rate of 35%. The remaining two non-AFFIRM African-American students passed successfully, giving them a 100% success rate. The other Chemistry 30 students had a 60% success rate. Low numbers do not give stable results; more research will be needed.

Key: All Other Chem 30* = All Chemistry 30 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Chem 30 Af.-Amer.* = Chemistry 30 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in Chemistry 30

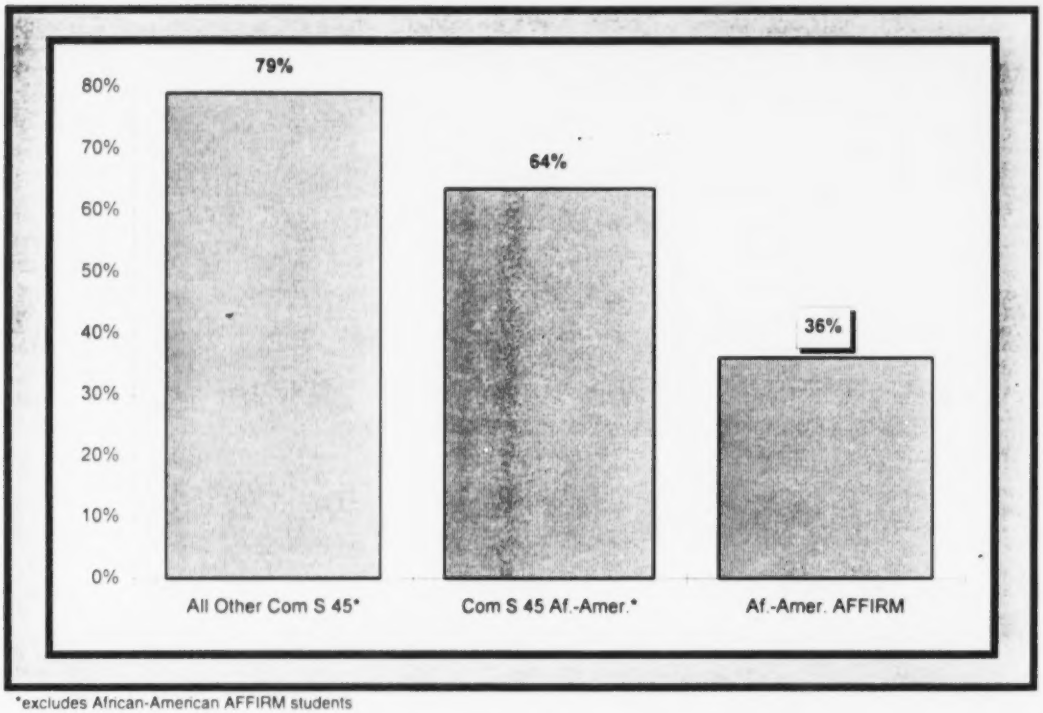
Evergreen Valley College

Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in Communication Studies 45 Compared to All Communication Studies 45 African-Americans and All Other Communication Studies 45 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Com S 45*	321	254	**79%**
Com S 45 Af.-Amer.*	11	7	**64%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	36	13	**36%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: The success rate for the African-American AFFIRM students in Comm Studies 45 was 36%, lower than the success rate of the non-AFFIRM African-American students at 64%. The other Comm Studies 45 students had a 79% success rate.

Key: All Other Com S 45* = All Comm Studies 45 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Com S 45 Af.-Amer.* = Comm Studies 45 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in Comm Studies 45

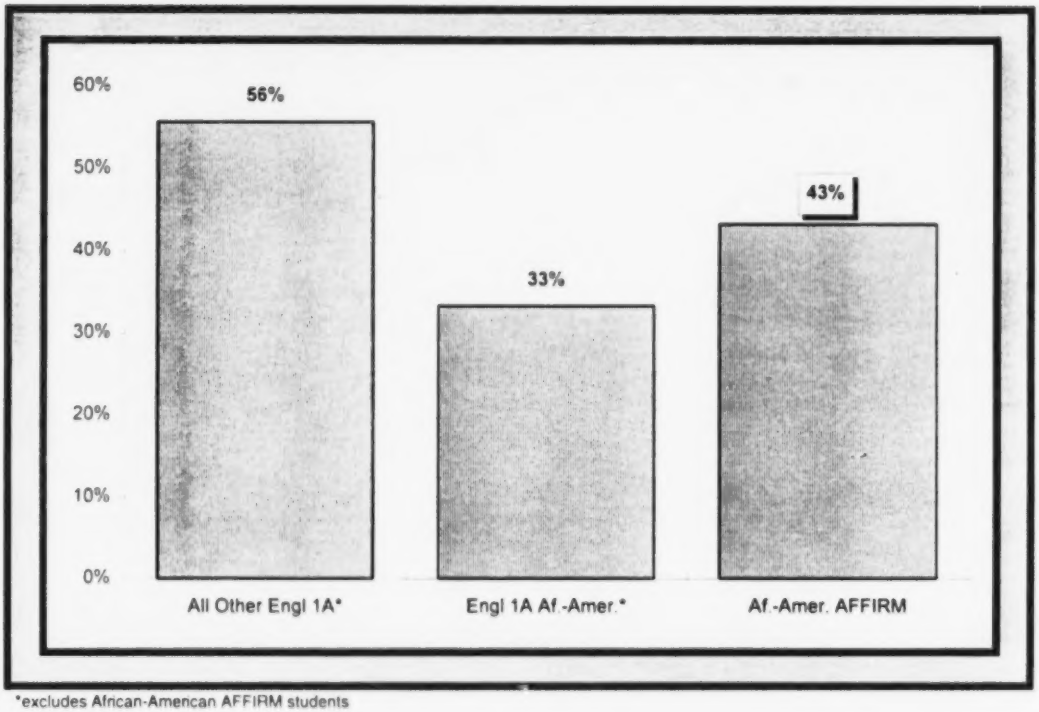
Evergreen Valley College

Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in English 1A Compared to Other English 1A African-Americans and All Other English 1A Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Engl 1A*	698	389	**56%**
Engl 1A Af.-Amer.*	36	12	**33%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	30	13	**43%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: African-American AFFIRM English 1A students were more successful at 43% than the non-AFFIRM African-American students in English 1A at 33%, and less successful than all other English 1A students at 56%.

Key:
All Other Engl 1A* = All English 1A students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Engl 1A Af.-Amer.* = English 1A African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in English 1A

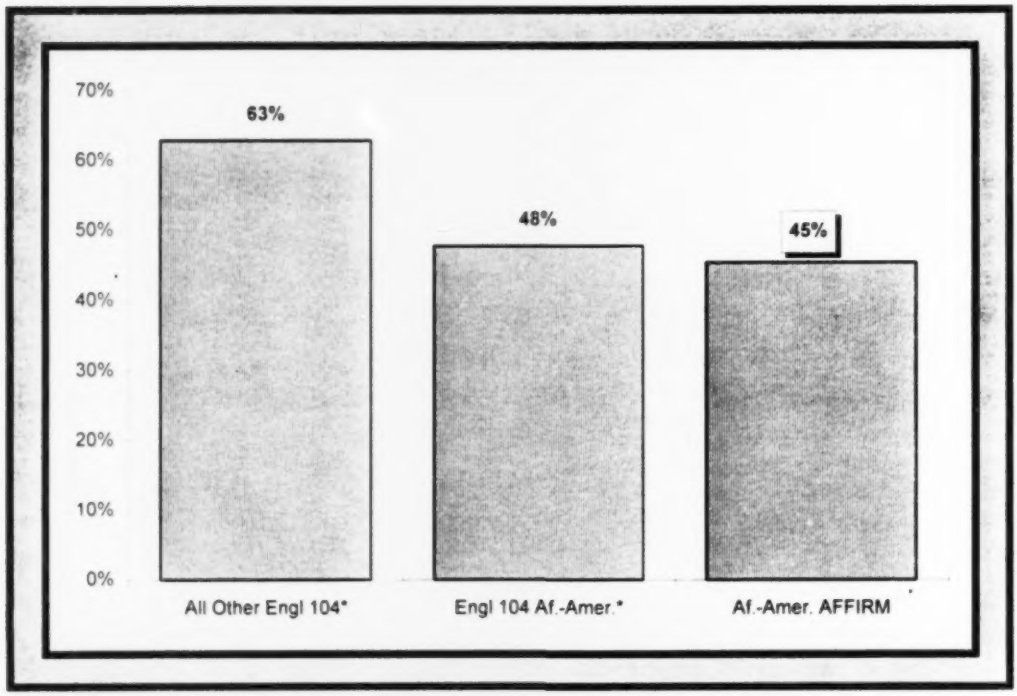
Evergreen Valley College

Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in English 104 Compared to All English 104 African-Americans and All Other English 104 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Engl 104*	464	292	**63%**
Engl 104 Af.-Amer.*	23	11	**48%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	22	10	**45%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: African-Americans in the AFFIRM English 104 (one level below English composition) section had a success rate of 45%, lower than the success rate for all other African-Americans in English 104 at 48% and lower than all other English 104 students at 63%.

Key:
All Other Engl 104* = All English 104 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Engl 104 Af.-Amer.* = English 104 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in English 104

Evergreen Valley College

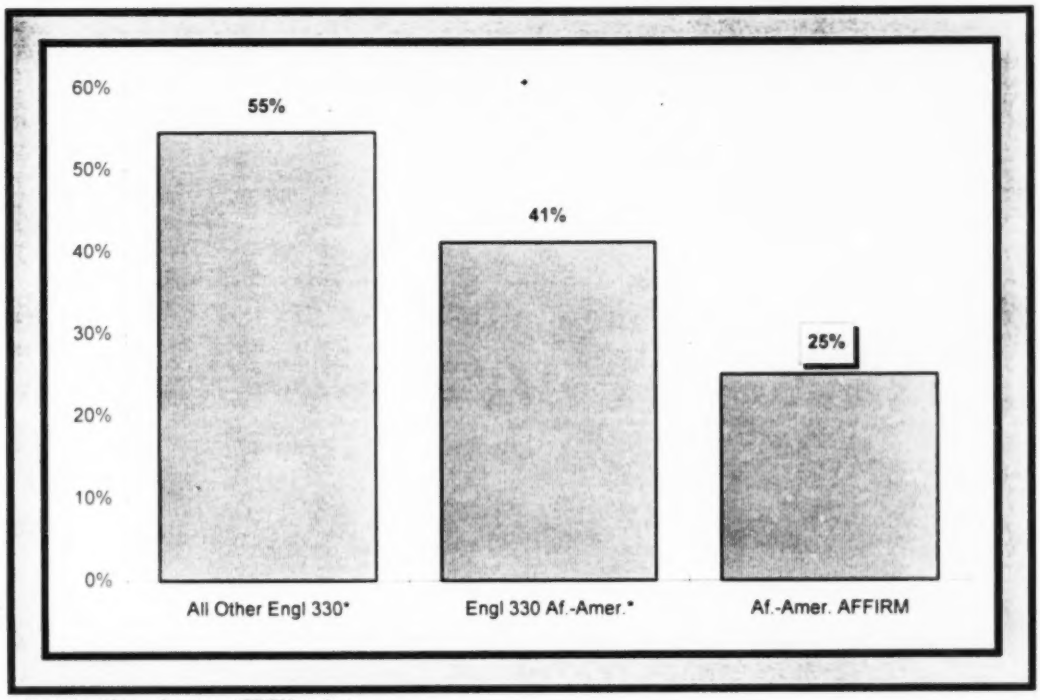
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in English 330

Compared to All English 330 African-Americans and All Other English 330 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Engl 330*	300	164	**55%**
Engl 330 Af.-Amer.*	17	7	**41%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	16	4	**25%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: African-American AFFIRM English 330 students had a lower success rate at 25% than other African-American students in English 330 at 41%, and lower than all other English 330 students at 55%.

Key: All Other Engl 330* = All English 330 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Engl 330 Af.-Amer.* = English 330 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in English 330

Evergreen Valley College

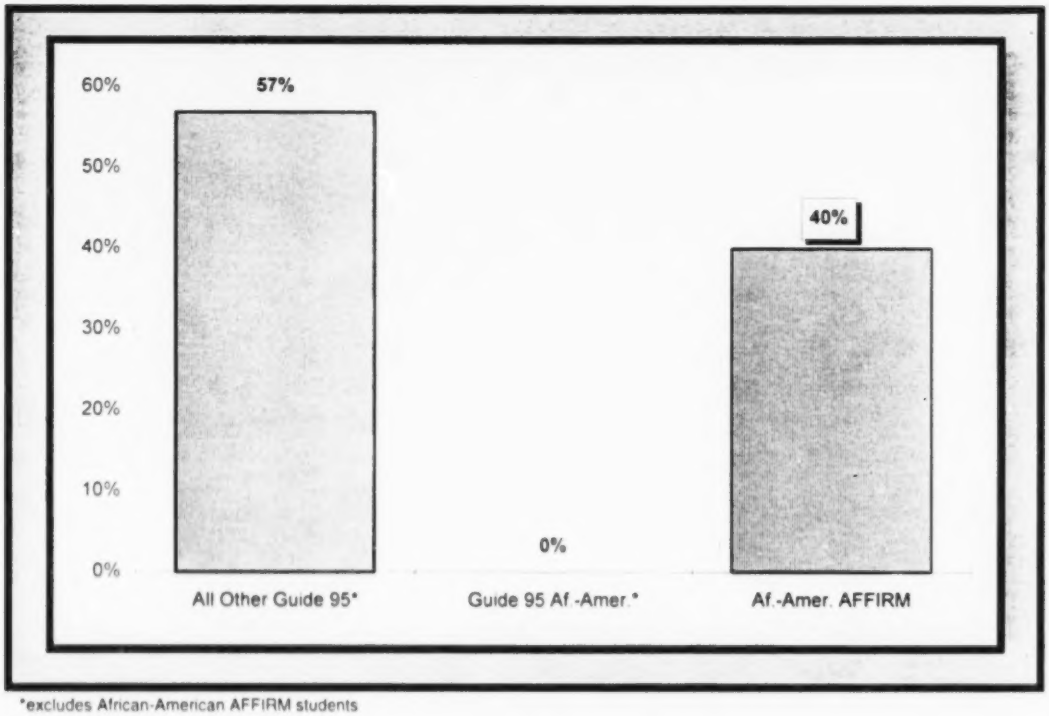
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in Guide 95

Compared to All Guide 95 African-Americans and All Other Guide 95 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Guide 95*	65	37	**57%**
Guide 95 Af.-Amer.*	2	0	**0%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	10	4	**40%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: Of the 12 African-American students in Guide 95, 10 were AFFIRM students. These AFFIRM students had a 40% success rate. The non-AFFIRM students did not pass, giving them a 0% success rate. All other Guide 95 students had a success rate of 57%. Low numbers do not give stable results; more research will be needed.

Key:
All Other Guide 95* = All Guidance 95 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Guide 95 Af.-Amer.* = Guidance 95 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in Guidance 95

Evergreen Valley College

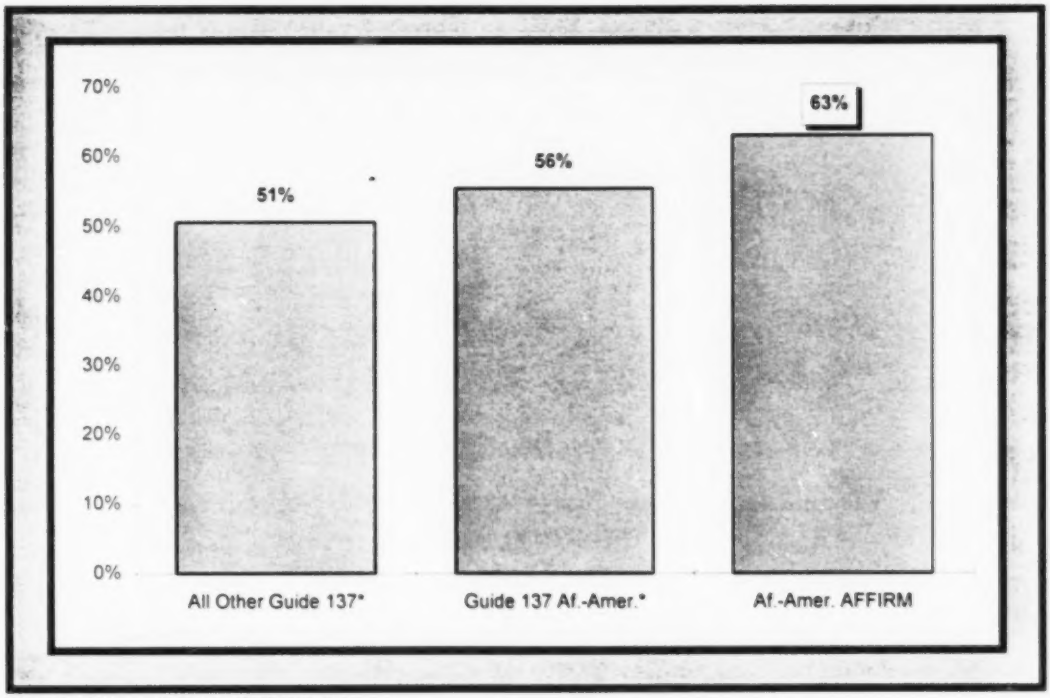
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in Guide 137

Compared to All Guide 137 African-Americans and All Other Guide 137 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Guide 137*	339	172	**51%**
Guide 137 Af.-Amer.*	9	5	**56%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	19	12	**63%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: The African-American AFFIRM students in Guidance 137 had a 63% success rate, higher than the non-AFFIRM African-American students at 56%, and higher than all other Guidance 137 students at 51%.

Key:
All Other Guide 137* = All Guidance 137 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Guide 137 Af.-Amer.* = Guidance 137 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in Guidance 137

Evergreen Valley College

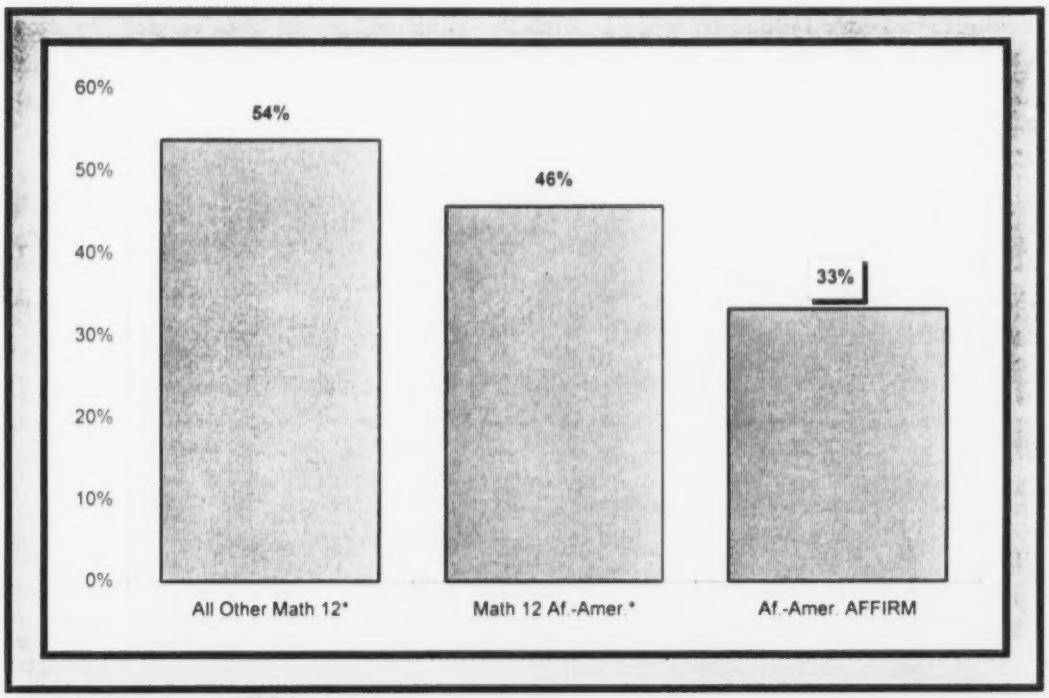
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in Math 12

Compared to All Math 12 African-Americans and All Other Math 12 Students

Spring 1994

Group	Tot #	# Suc	% Suc
All Other Math 12*	429	231	**54%**
Math 12 Af.-Amer.*	24	11	**46%**
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM	24	8	**33%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Comment: The African-American AFFIRM students in Math 12 had a low success rate of 33% compared to 46% for the African-American students in non-AFFIRM Math 12 classes. Both groups were lower than all other Math 12 students, who had a 54% success rate.

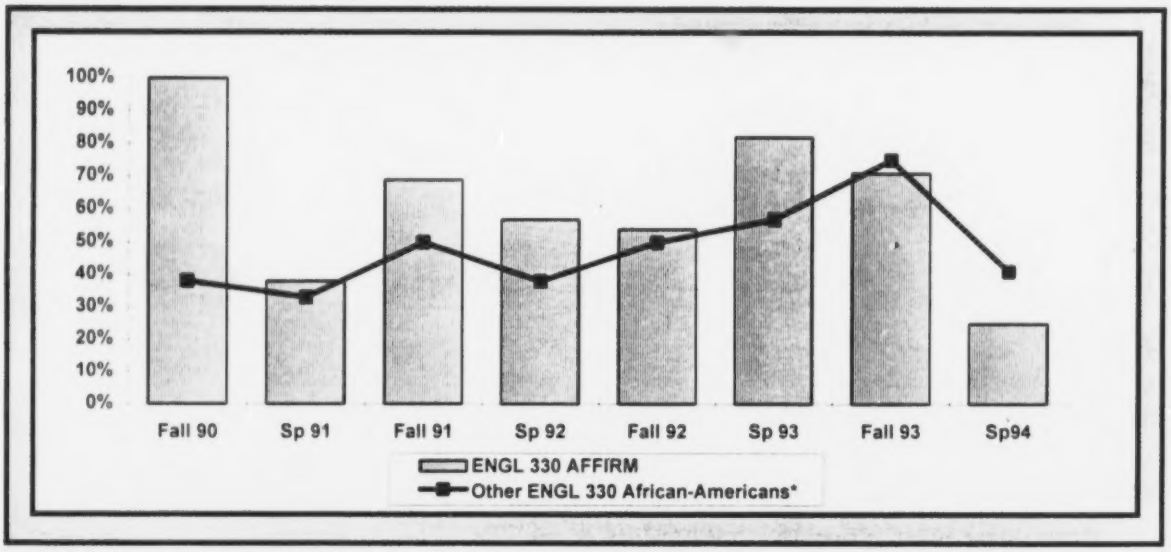
Key:
All Other Math 12* = All Math 12 students except the African-American AFFIRM students
Math 12 Af.-Amer.* = Math 12 African-Americans except the African-American AFFIRM students
Af.-Amer. AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in Math 12

Evergreen Valley College
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in English 330 Compared to Other African-Americans in English 330 Over Eight Semesters
Fall 1990 through Spring 1994

Question: What number and percent of African-American AFFIRM students succeeded in English 330 from Fall 1990 through Spring 1994 compared to African-American students in non-AFFIRM sections of English 330?

Group	F90 % Suc	S91 % Suc	F91 % Suc	S92 % Suc	F92 % Suc	S93 % Suc	F93 % Suc	S94 % Suc	Total % Suc
Total# (#Suc)	6 (6)	8 (3)	16 (11)	7 (4)	13 (7)	11 (9)	14 (10)	16 (4)	91 (54)
ENGL 330 AFFIRM	**100%**	**38%**	**69%**	**57%**	**54%**	**82%**	71%	25%	**59%**
Total# (#Suc)	26 (10)	21 (7)	26 (13)	26 (10)	10 (5)	14 (8)	53 (40)	17 (7)	193 (100)
Other ENGL 330 Af.-Americans*	38%	33%	50%	38%	50%	57%	75%	41%	**52%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Answer: Over 8 semesters, the total success rate for African-American AFFIRM students in English 330 was 59% compared to other English 330 African-American students at 52%.

In 6 of the 8 semesters, the African-American AFFIRM students in English 330 had a higher success rate than the other English 330 African-American students. Most individual AFFIRM sections had small numbers of African-American students, therefore, caution should be used in generalizing from data for a single semester's comparisons.

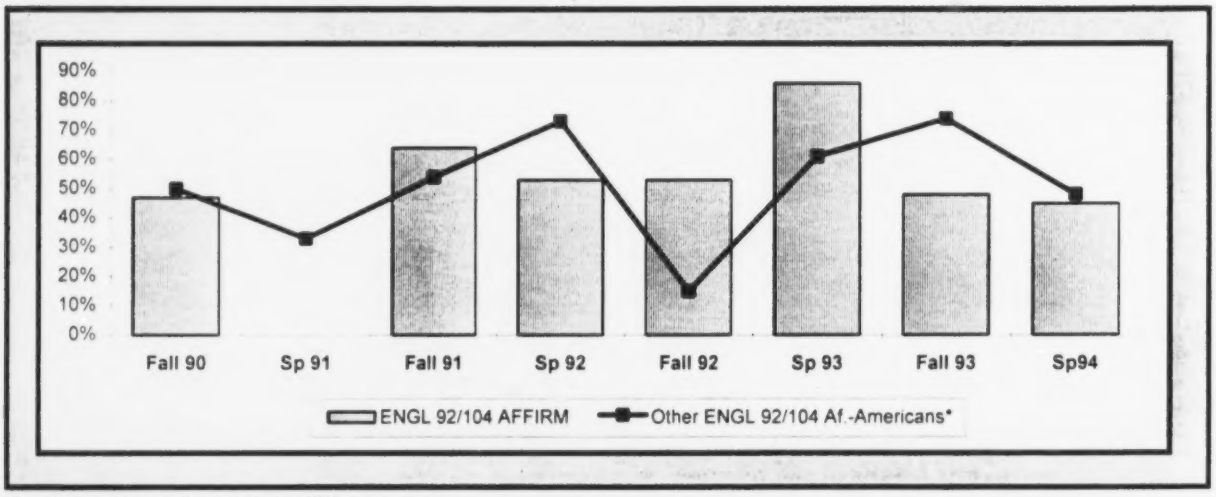
Key: ENGL 330 AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in English 330
Other ENGL 330 African-Americans* = All African-American students in English 330 except African-American AFFIRM students

Evergreen Valley College
Success Rates of African-American AFFIRM Students in English 92/104 Compared to Other African-Americans in English 92/104 Over Eight Semesters
Fall 1990 through Spring 1994

Question: What number and percent of African-American AFFIRM students succeeded in English 92 (which became English 104 in F92) from Fall 1990 through Spring 1994 compared to other African-Americans in the same course(s) during the same semesters?

Group	F90 % Suc Engl 92	S91 % Suc Engl 92	F91 % Suc Engl 92	S92 % Suc Engl 92	F92 % Suc Engl 92	S93 % Suc Engl 104	F93 % Suc Engl 104	S94 % Suc Engl 104	Total % Suc
Total# (#Suc)	17 (8)	0 (0)	14 (9)	17 (9)	15 (8)	21 (18)	25 (12)	22 (10)	131 (74)
ENGL 92/104 AFFIRM	47%	N/A	**64%**	53%	**53%**	**86%**	48%	45%	**56%**
Total# (#Suc)	46 (23)	21 (7)	24 (13)	22 (16)	26 (4)	18 (11)	19 (14)	23 (11)	199 (99)
Other ENGL 92/104 Af.-Americans*	50%	33%	54%	73%	15%	61%	74%	48%	**50%**

*excludes African-American AFFIRM students



*excludes African-American AFFIRM students

Answer: Over 8 semesters, the total success rate for African-American AFFIRM students in English 92/104 was 56% compared to other English 92/104 African-American students at 50%.

In 3 of the 8 semesters, the African-American AFFIRM students in English 92/104 had a higher success rate than the other English 92/104 African-American students. Most individual AFFIRM sections had small numbers of African-American students, therefore, caution should be used in generalizing from data for a single semester's comparisons.

Key: ENGL 92/104 AFFIRM = African-American AFFIRM students in English 92/104
Other ENGL 92/104 Af.-Americans* = All African-American students in English 92/104 except African-American AFFIRM students

Note: AFFIRM English 92 was not offered in Spring 1991. English 92 changed to English 104 in Fall 1992.